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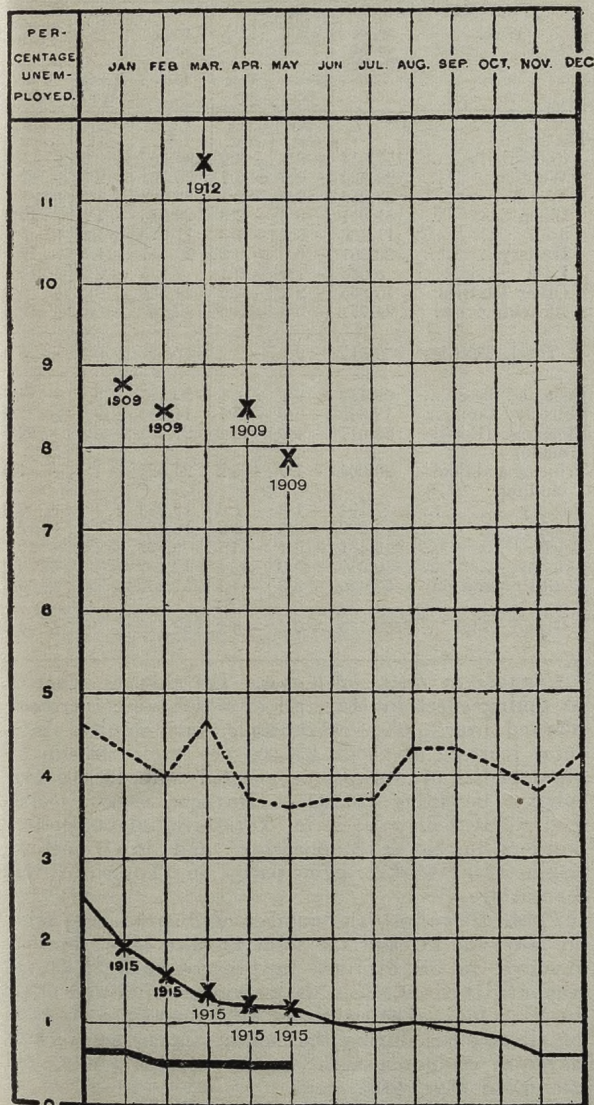
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS

— *Thick Curve* = 1916. — *Thin Curve* = 1915.
..... *Dotted Curve* = Mean of 1906-15.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1906-15.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

EMPLOYMENT in May continued at a very high level in all the industries directly affected by the requirements of the Forces; in other industries it was good on the whole. The calling to the colours of men of military age accentuated the shortage of labour, and the substitution of women requires to be carried out to a much greater degree than has hitherto been accomplished.

Compared with a year ago, despite the substitution of women, there was a decline in the number of persons employed, but for those still in industry employment was better.

Employment at coal, iron and shale mines was very good. Lead mines continued busy, and employment was fair generally in the quarrying industry. At tin mines it was quiet.

The blast furnaces in the pig-iron industry were somewhat hampered by the difficulties of obtaining supplies, but employment was still good; at iron and steel works it was very good. Engineering shops and shipyards continued to work at high pressure, and much overtime was reported. There was a reduction in the number of tinsplate and steel sheet mills at work, but most of the other metal trades were very busy, with considerable overtime.

The shortage of male labour in the cotton trade was partly met by the further substitution of women, and employment on the whole showed little change. It continued very good in the woollen, worsted and hosiery trades, and good in the bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades. Employment was fairly good in the silk trade, and fair in the carpet trade. In the linen trade it was quiet in Ireland, but fairly good in Scotland. The jute industry was still affected by a dispute at Dundee, while in the lace trade some short time was caused by a shortage of certain classes of labour.

The boot and shoe trade was exceptionally busy. Employment in the leather trades was good, except in some branches of the saddlery and harness trades at Walsall, which remained quiet. There was a further seasonal improvement in the bespoke tailoring and dressmaking trades. It continued good with corset makers, and fairly good in ready-made tailoring and with mantle, blouse and costume makers. Employment with silk hat makers was bad; in the felt hat trade there were practically no unemployed, but short time was worked.

There was a further improvement with brickmakers, and the men still remaining in the building trades were well employed. Employment in the cement trades was good and better than in April. In the furnishing trades it was fairly good; the other woodworking trades were well employed.

There was a further slight decline in the printing

before the war. Milk and butter showed advances of about 30 per cent., margarine an increase of 18 per cent.

Taking the country as a whole, and making allowance for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class household expenditure, the average increase in the retail prices of food since the beginning of the war may be put at 59 per cent., which is reduced to 53 per cent. if the increase in the duties on tea and sugar is deducted.

These figures relate to food only, and in estimating the increased cost of living this percentage must not be applied to the total family expenditure, but only to that proportion which is expended on food. It should be remembered that rents generally are no higher than before the war, and that although many other items of expenditure have increased, they have not advanced, on the average, so much as food. It may be estimated that the average increase in the cost of living of the working-classes, taking food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c., into consideration, between July, 1914, and the present time, is about 40 per cent., disregarding increased taxation and assuming that the standard of living has not been modified in view of war conditions.

BERLIN IN APRIL.

A further rise of nearly 10 per cent. was recorded in April in the general level of food prices in Berlin, the index number of the total rise since July, 1914, being thus brought up to close on 120 per cent. In calculating these percentages allowance is made for the relative importance of the various articles of food in working-class consumption. The following Table is based upon returns published in the Prussian official journal *Statistische Korrespondenz*:-

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1916, as compared with	
	March, 1916.	July, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rye bread	No change	+ 42.9
Wheat bread	No change	+ 27.7
Rye flour	No change	+ 46.7
Wheat flour	No change	+ 14.3
Butter	+ 3.3	+ 115.4
Lard	+ 21.5	+ 302.6
Sugar	+ 1.6	+ 32.0
Coffee	+ 21.7	+ 132.3
Eggs	+ 9.5	+ 228.6
Milk	No change	+ 36.4
Beef	+ 17.2	+ 228.2
Mutton	+ 8.5	+ 182.4
Veal	+ 19.5	+ 173.0
Pork	+ 8.0	+ 116.7
Bacon	+ 14.3	+ 189.2
Potatoes	+ 18.2	+ 62.5
Rice	+ 4.6	+ 444.0
Split peas	- 1.8	+ 175.0
Haricot beans	+ 2.6	+ 138.0
ALL ARTICLES TOGETHER (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	+ 9.6	+ 119.8

As compared with the preceding month, the prices recorded for bread, flour and milk showed no change, while split peas would seem to have become slightly cheaper. On the other hand, further considerable advances were recorded in April for all kinds of meat (beef 17 per cent., mutton 9 per cent., veal 20 per cent., pork 8 per cent., bacon 14 per cent.), as also for lard (22 per cent.), coffee (22 per cent.) and potatoes (18 per cent.).

As compared with July, 1914, every article included in the Table was dearer, the price in several cases approaching, and in some exceeding, thrice that prevailing before the outbreak of war. For bread, flour, sugar, milk and potatoes the extent of the rise is least marked.

As an index to the state of food supplies in Berlin the above figures can only be accepted with reserve. Those recorded in the Prussian source for March and April are in some cases maximum prices, above which retail dealers are not legally permitted to charge. Moreover, many of these articles, e.g. bread, flour, butter, lard, potatoes, may only be sold in strictly limited quantities, while others, such as peas and beans, are unobtainable at the ordinary shops in Berlin. For the two last-named articles Berlin quotations have

ceased for some months, and the percentages given in the Table are based on the average prices for the remaining towns in Prussia. Lentils would appear to have practically disappeared from the Prussian markets, since no prices are recorded for April either for Berlin or for Prussian towns generally.

VIENNA IN APRIL.

A rise of over 5 per cent. in retail food prices in Vienna in April, as compared with the preceding month, is shown by the figures published in the official journal *Warenpreisberichte*, the general level being thus brought up to 121.5 per cent. above that of July, 1914. No data are available as to the relative importance of the various foods in household consumption in Vienna, and in computing the general index numbers it is assumed that the same standard exists there as in Berlin. The following Table, showing the changes in price of certain important articles of food, is based on data published in the Austrian journal referred to:-

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1916, as compared with	
	March, 1916.	July, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef	+ 12.2	+ 268.9
Veal	+ 22.6	+ 153.3
Pork	+ 15.1	+ 179.7
Bacon	- 4.3	+ 235.0
Lard	- 7.2	+ 236.8
Milk	- 4.1	+ 51.6
Butter	+ 4.8	+ 144.4
Margarine	No change	+ 240.0
Flour, wheat	+ 9.1	+ 179.1
Bread, rye	No change	+ 75.0
Rice	+ 5.3	+ 566.7
Eggs	+ 12.5	+ 157.1
Potatoes	+ 6.3	+ 29.2
Haricot beans	+ 2.9	+ 191.7
Onions	+ 20.0	+ 140.0
Sugar	No change	+ 17.7
ALL ARTICLES TOGETHER (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	+ 5.2	+ 121.5

Compared with the preceding month, ten articles out of the sixteen shown in the Table increased in price in April, the advances being most marked in veal (23 per cent.), onions (20 per cent.), pork (15 per cent.), eggs (13 per cent.), and beef (12 per cent.). On the other hand, margarine, rye bread and sugar showed no change, while bacon, lard and milk appear to have become slightly cheaper in April.

As compared with prices prevailing in July, 1914, all articles except potatoes were much dearer. Sugar, it is true, has advanced only by 18 per cent., and milk and rye bread by 52 and 75 per cent. respectively, but every other article covered by the Table was well over twice (some over thrice) as dear as in the month immediately preceding the war. Rice was costing more than six times as much as in July, 1914.

The official returns no longer give the prices of split peas or lentils, and these articles disappear from the Table; the prices of haricot beans have been taken in partial substitution.

As an index to the state of food supplies, the above figures (like those for Berlin) can only be accepted with reserve, since many of the most essential kinds of food (including bread, flour, potatoes, sugar, bacon and lard) are no longer sold in a free market, nor obtainable in the quantities desired.

MAXIMUM PRICES IN ITALY.

The *Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro* (the journal of the Italian Labour Department) for 16th May, 1916, publishes the text of a Vice-regal Decree, to enter at once into force, which authorises the fixing of maximum prices for articles in common use or which are required for agricultural or industrial production.

The list of such articles and the maximum prices which may be charged by producers will be determined from time to time by the issue of Ministerial Decrees. Rules for fixing maximum prices for both wholesale and retail traders are to be issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce in conjunc-

tion with the Minister of the Interior. Any person selling goods for prices higher than the maxima fixed in pursuance of the Decree may be fined from two to three times the price received by him. For any offence after the first, imprisonment for periods ranging from one month to one year may be added to the fine.

If a producer or dealer, without good cause, refuses to sell his stock of goods at the maximum prices fixed by authority, the prefect or the mayor may seize the stock and sell it on the man's behalf and at his expense, the quantity required for the owner's personal consumption being, however, reserved for him.

The Decree does not affect existing regulations as to military requisition and as to the maximum prices of grain, flour and sugar.

OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYERS TO MOBILISED EMPLOYEES IN ITALY.

The issue of the *Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro* (the journal of the Italian Department of Labour) for 16th May, 1916, publishes a Vice-regal Decree (dated 1st May, 1916) making provisions in favour of employees of private business concerns who have been called to the colours.

In the case of business concerns which permanently employ more than two persons, the contract of employment of those members of the staff who are called to the colours shall be regarded as being still in existence (although suspended) until the expiration of military service, provided that such persons have been employed in the same concern for at least one year.

If, within a month of the date of his discharge from the army, the employee declares his desire to resume his civil employment, the employer is bound to reinstate him within a fortnight. Failing the receipt of such a declaration from the employee within the month, the employer is entitled to assume that he has relinquished his situation.

If a man has been engaged at a business as a substitute for one who has been called to the colours, the re-engagement of the latter shall be regarded as terminating the engagement of the former, who has no title to compensation, but has a right to a fortnight's notice.

The owner of a private business who employs more than three persons is required to grant allowances on the following scale to those of his staff who have been with him for more than five years:-

Length of Service.	Proportion of Wages to be granted.	
	Married Men or Widowers with Young Children.	Others.
Over 10 years	One-half	One-third
From 5 to 10 years	One-third	One-fourth

For members of the staff who are placed in charge of others the allowances must be on a somewhat higher scale.

As regards establishments and employees not covered by the foregoing provisions, it is laid down that the treatment accorded to men called to the colours shall be determined by local custom, regard being had to the financial condition of the business. Any contractual or customary stipulations already made, if more favourable to the employees than those provided by the Decree, are to remain in force.

A person discharged from employment after the publication of the Decree, but before being called to the colours, is entitled to appeal to a Tribunal (see below). Should that body determine that his discharge had for its object an evasion of the provisions of the Decree, it may order his reinstatement.

An employer, some of whose staff have been mobilised and have been accorded the privileges prescribed by the present Decree, may require those who remain in his service to work overtime, but not more than three hours a day. For such overtime, wages at a rate

lower than the normal may be paid, the minimum rate being, however, not less than two-thirds of the normal.

The owner of a business employing less than three persons, if he himself be called up, may appeal to the Tribunal (see below) to be relieved of the obligations imposed upon him by this Decree, although the business may be carried on by members of his family or by others on his behalf.

The Decree makes arrangements for safeguarding the interests of an employee in the event of the sale or bankruptcy of the business in which he was employed.

All questions as to the application of this Decree are to be decided by Tribunals on which the employer and employee classes have equal representation. Against decisions of Provincial Tribunals appeal lies to a Central Tribunal.

The Decree does not, in general, apply to conscripts called up for service for the first time, nor is it applicable to public departments and corporations in so far as the allowances to be made to their employees in the event of a call to the colours are determined by special enactments.

ACREAGE UNDER CROPS AND NUMBER OF LIVE STOCK IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

The first part of the Agricultural Statistics for 1915, containing particulars relating to the acreage under crops and grass and the number of live stock in England and Wales, has recently been issued.*

I.—CROPS.

The following Table shows the acreage under the principal crops in England and Wales in June, 1915, and 1914, and the average for the ten years 1905-14:-

—	1915.	1914.	Average 1905-14.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
				1914.	1905-14.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wheat	2,170,170	1,807,498	1,735,927	+ 20	+ 25
Barley	1,231,722	1,504,771	1,495,181	- 18	- 18
Oats	2,088,047	1,929,626	2,063,178	+ 8	+ 1
Beans	266,515	294,016	280,898	- 9	- 5
Peas	129,331	168,341	170,684	- 23	- 24
Potatoes	463,399	461,621	434,949	...	+ 6 1/2
Turnips and Swedes	931,856	1,045,094	1,104,657	- 11	- 16
Mangold	413,723	432,367	438,593	- 4	- 6
Clover, Sainfoin, &c.	2,362,365	2,381,351	2,693,467	- 1	- 12

The area under the three chief corn crops—wheat, barley and oats—in England and Wales in 1915 was 5,489,939 acres, an increase of 248,044 acres as compared with 1914. Except for oats in the south-west of England and in the south of Wales, extensions of the acreage of wheat and oats, and reductions in the area of barley were general throughout the country.

The acreage under wheat in 1915 amounted to 2,170,170 acres, being 20 per cent. greater than in 1914, and 25 per cent. above the average of the decade 1905-14, the area devoted to this crop in 1915 being the largest on record since the year 1891. The area under barley, which amounted to 1,231,722 acres, was the lowest yet recorded, and 273,049 acres less than in 1914. Oats covered an acreage of 2,088,047 acres, an increase of 158,421 acres as compared with 1914, but only 24,869 acres above the average of the previous ten years.

The acreage planted with potatoes was 463,399 acres, slightly more than in 1914, and 28,450 acres more than the average of the ten years 1905-14; only once since the Returns under consideration were first collected, viz. in 1905, has the area so planted exceeded that in 1915. An analysis of the figures shows that in the South, Midlands and Wales additions to the area were general; in the East and North-East there was, on the whole, little change; while in the North and North-Western division decreases were fairly general, the reduction in Lancashire and Cheshire amounting to 5,290 acres.

mines working 6.02 days per week and 3,208 workpeople a year ago at mines working 6.00 days per week.

Tin.—Employment in Cornwall was described as quiet generally, and was not so good as a year ago. Many of the mines were short-handed, and, in consequence, practically no miners were unemployed.

Lead.—In Flintshire employment was very good, and was better than a year ago. At Darley Dale (Matlock) and in Weardale it was good, and was much better than a year ago in the latter district.

QUARRYING.

Slate.—In North Wales employment was fair and better than a year ago; some quarries were still working short time.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment in the macadam branch continued good, but showed some decline on a year ago. In Cornwall it was dull generally and worse than a year ago. In the Aberdeen quarries the labour shortage was acute.

Limestone.—In the Weardale, Cleveland and Buxton districts employment was good; in the Buxton district it was better, but in the other districts it showed but little change compared with a year ago.

Other Stone.—At the Bakewell chert quarries employment continued good. It was also good at the Clee Hill road-material (basalt) quarries. At the Rowsley grindstone and building stone quarries employment was moderate and slightly better than a year ago. At free-stone quarries on the Tyne it was fair, and about the same as a year ago. The depression in the Forfarshire sandstone quarries continued.

Sett-making.—In Scotland employment was fair on the whole. In Leicestershire it was moderate, and showed some decline on both a month ago and a year ago. In the Clee Hill quarries it continued very quiet.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell district employment was good, and better than a year ago; in the Shaugh and Lee Moor works it continued fair, and about the same as a year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and showed little change on a month ago or a year ago. There was, at many furnaces, a continued difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies of ore, limestone, fuel, &c. The labour shortage was also marked, especially as regards furnacemen and general labourers.

Returns received show that 270 furnaces were in blast at the end of May, compared with 269 a month ago and 271 a year ago. During the month one furnace in Lancashire was blown out, and two were re-lit (one each in Northampton and Worcestershire).

The returns are summarised by districts in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: District, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of (May, April, May 1916), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1916, on (A Month ago, A Year ago).

The imports of iron ore during May totalled 688,000 tons, compared with 572,000 tons a month ago and 541,000 tons a year ago.

The exports of pig iron amounted to 98,000 tons, as against 83,000 tons a month ago and 29,000 tons a year ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 50,000 tons in the exports to France.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good, and was much better than a year ago; a general shortage of labour was reported.

According to returns relating to 112,911 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 27th May, 1916, was 654,614, showing an increase of 1,163 (or 0.2 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 59,502 (or 10.0 per cent.) on a year ago.

Table with 10 columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts worked, Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago), Per cent.

Compared with a month ago employment showed some improvement in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire and the Wales and Monmouth districts, but a decline in the Leeds and Bradford district. In the other districts there was not much change. As regards departments, there was a slight decline in all the principal departments, except at open hearth melting furnaces which showed some improvement.

Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed showed increases in every district except in the Leeds and Bradford district, where a large decline was again recorded. The aggregate number of shifts worked showed a decrease in the Leeds and Bradford district, but an increase in every other district and in all the departments. The largest increases were in Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, and in Scotland. The average number of shifts worked per man at foundries showed a decline, but was still 6.39 shifts.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during May, 1916, amounted to 73,000 tons, an increase of 18,000 tons on a month ago, but a decrease of 44,000 tons on a year ago.

The exports (excluding pig iron, black plates, tinplates and galvanised sheets) totalled 205,000 tons, compared with 154,000 tons a month ago and 164,000 tons a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued very good, and a large amount of overtime was worked. Trade Unions with 259,346 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.3 per cent. in each of the previous three months, and with 0.6 per cent. in May, 1915.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 920,945, of whom 0.4 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.5 per cent. a month ago and a year ago, and with 3.1 per cent. in May, 1914.

In only two areas (London and Ireland) was the

percentage unemployed in excess of 0.5, while in Scotland, the Northern Counties, Yorkshire and the Eastern and South-Eastern Counties it was as low as 0.2.

Table with 7 columns: Division, Number Insured, Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at (26th May, 1916, 28th April, 1916, 28th May, 1915), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1916, on a (Month ago, Year ago).

The only noticeable exceptions to the general state of employment as described above occurred in the cases of patternmakers and ironmoulders, with whom, in a few districts, employment was only fair. With patternmakers at several places, however, employment was good and better than a month ago.

The imports of machinery during May, 1916, were valued at £887,000, compared with £638,000 a month ago and £802,000 a year ago. The increase compared with a year ago is due to larger imports of machine tools, the value of which amounted to £332,000, against £159,000 in 1915.

The exports (British and Irish) of machinery were valued at £1,921,000, compared with £1,284,000 a month ago and £1,830,000 a year ago. Compared with a year ago there were large increases in the values of the exports of steam turbine engines, of textile machinery, and of boilers, and large decreases in road locomotives and in parts of sewing machines.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THESE trades continued to work at high pressure, with much overtime.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and shipwrights with 73,511 members reported 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.3 per cent. in each of the previous three months, and with 0.5 per cent. in May, 1915.

The percentage unemployed among the 228,454 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured against unemployment under Part II of the National Insurance Act was reported as 0.3 at the end of May, compared with 0.4 a month ago, 0.7 a year ago, and 4.0 two years ago. The percentages unemployed in each district at the end of May, 1916, April, 1916, and May, 1915, are shown in the following Table:—

Table with 7 columns: Division, Number Insured, Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at (26th May, 1916, 28th April, 1916, 28th May, 1915), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1916, compared with a (Month ago, Year ago).

The only noticeable variations as compared with the preceding month, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:—

With shipjoiners, employment on the Clyde was even better than a month ago; at Belfast it was only fair,

though improved; on repair work at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it declined, and was only fair.

TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of May, 1916, at the works covered by the returns, together with the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 25,000 workpeople.

Table with 6 columns: Works, Number of Works open, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month ago, Year ago), Number of Mills in operation, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a (Month ago, Year ago).

TINPLATE.

This industry during May showed a decline on a month ago, being affected by the difficulty in obtaining steel bars, sulphuric acid, and boxes for packing purposes. It was not so good as a year ago.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets showed a marked increase on both a month ago and a year ago. Compared with a month ago the quantities sent to Australia, China and Japan, the Netherlands, Italy and France showed large increases. Compared with a year ago shipments to France, China and Japan, Australia and the Netherlands increased very considerably. Exports to the British East Indies declined by over 3,000 tons, and to Italy by over 1,200 tons.

The figures are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: May, 1916, April, 1916, May, 1915, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1916, on a (Month ago, Year ago). Includes Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, and Black Plates for Tinning.

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

In this branch of the trade the number of mills in operation at the end of May was five less than in April and three less than a year ago. The mills were fully employed so far as the shortage of both labour and material would permit. It was reported that very little galvanising was done, and nearly all the sheets sent out were black plates of the heavier gauges.

The imports of crude zinc during May, 1916, amounted to 2,838 tons, compared with 2,819 tons in April and 4,591 tons a year ago. The total value in May, 1916, was £256,000, an increase of £44,000 on a year ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets totalled 16,500 tons during May, 1916, compared with 13,500 tons in April and 31,500 tons a year ago. Compared with May, 1915, the following were the principal decreases: British India, 5,300 tons; Argentine Republic, 4,300 tons; Australia and New Zealand, 2,200 tons; Canada, 1,800 tons; Dutch East Indies and Japan, 600 tons each; and Straits Settlements just over 500 tons.

where it was 5.0. For every occupation the highest percentage unemployed was in Ireland, and the next highest was in London, the percentages for masons being 11.9 in Ireland and 2.7 in London, while those for plasterers were 10.4 and 4.1 respectively.

Compared with a year ago there were reductions in the percentages unemployed in every district, and in most occupations; in the case of plasterers and painters, however, the majority of districts showed an increase.

Table of unemployment percentages for various trades (Carpenters, Bricklayers, Masons, Plasterers, Painters, Plumbers, etc.) across different districts, comparing current data with previous months and years.

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, showing practically no change on a month ago. Overtime was reported on the Tyne and Wear, at Birmingham, Bristol and Dundee, in the Glasgow district, and in engineering

shops at Sheffield. Employment was fair at Liverpool and Leeds, dull at Belfast, and quiet at Edinburgh and Leith.

The percentage unemployed at the end of May among workpeople engaged in saw-milling and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 0.6, as compared with 0.6 in the previous month and 1.2 in May, 1915.

FURNISHING.

Employment on the whole continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. At Hull, Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester and Ipswich it was fair in the furnishing trades generally; overtime was worked on the Tyne and at Birmingham. Cabinetmakers reported employment as quiet at Dublin and Belfast, moderate on the Tees and fair at Liverpool. With upholsterers it continued very quiet in London, dull at Liverpool, and fairly good elsewhere.

Trade Unions with 15,050 members had 2.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.4 per cent. a month ago and 3.0 per cent. in May, 1915.

COACH BUILDING.

Employment continued good on the whole and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Overtime was reported in London and at Liverpool, Glasgow, Loughborough and other centres, and both short time and overtime occurred at Saltley and Coventry. There was a decline in employment at Wolverhampton and Gloucester and an improvement at Dublin and Cork.

Trade Unions with 11,157 members had 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 1.0 per cent. a month ago and 0.8 per cent. a year ago.

COOPERS.

Employment continued good, with a slight improvement on a year ago. Overtime was reported at Glasgow and Greenock. Employment continued fair at Burton-on-Trent and Birmingham and was slack at Yarmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Employment continued good in all branches, and overtime was reported at a number of centres.

Other Trades.—Employment continued moderate with wheelwrights and smiths. Packing-case makers were well employed generally. Overtime was reported at Bradford, Manchester and Dundee. With skip and basket makers employment was good at Oldham, Leicester and in London; it was fair on the Tyne and slack at Nottingham.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

THERE was again a marked shortage of male labour of all kinds, but especially of navvies and general labourers, clay-getters and kiln wheelers. The number of workpeople employed was much smaller than in May, 1915, but for this reduced number employment was, on the whole, fairly good, better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. Very little short time was reported.

Employment continued moderate in the Tees and Hartlepoons district. It was slack in the Market Harbour and Sibley districts. With makers of caustic tiles at Tamworth and in the Shropshire glazed brick trade employment was good. It continued very good in the Stourbridge district, and was fair in South Staffordshire. Brickmakers were slack generally in Norfolk and Bedfordshire, but employment was fair at Ipswich, Sudbury and Chelmsford.

Returns from firms employing 6,481 workpeople in the week ended 27th May, 1916, showed a decrease of

0.4 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 21.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 10.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Districts, Workpeople (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), and Earnings (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

CEMENT TRADE.

A general shortage of male labour was reported, and much overtime was worked. Employment was good and better than a month ago.

Returns from firms employing 6,917 workpeople in the week ended 27th May, 1916, showed practically no change in the number employed, and an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 13.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT remained good generally, and was better than a year ago. At some mills, however, a portion of the machinery was idle. In many centres there was again a shortage of male labour.

Returns from firms employing 15,606 workpeople in the week ended 27th May showed a decrease in the number employed of 0.6 per cent. compared with the second week of April, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Table showing MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS, Hand-made Paper, Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, and Earnings.

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,503 members had 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.1 per cent. in each of the three previous months and with 0.4 per cent. in May, 1915.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment continued fairly good in May, and was better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago a further slight decline was reported, partly owing to lack of paper, and in some cases short time was worked. Generally, however, the supply of labour was inadequate, owing to enlistments, the shortage of machine minders being particularly noticeable.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 45,314 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of May was 1.7, compared with 1.7 a month ago and 4.0 a year ago.

Table showing Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1916, Percentage Unemployed at end of May, April, 1916, May, 1915, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

According to returns received from firms employing 12,695 workpeople in the week ended 27th May the number of persons employed showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with the week ended 15th April, and a decrease of 9.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; the amount of wages paid showing a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on April, 1916, and of 4.2 per cent. on May, 1915.

Table showing Districts, Workpeople (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), and Earnings (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued good, with a shortage of labour and a fair amount of overtime, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,309 workpeople in the week ended 27th May showed a decrease in the number of workpeople employed of 1.5 per cent. compared with the week ended 15th April, while the amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 8.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Districts, Workpeople (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), and Earnings (Week ended 27th May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago).

Trade Unions with a membership of 5,408 had 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of both May and April, 1916, compared with 2.2 per cent. in May, 1915.

Table showing Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1916, Percentage Unemployed at end of May, April, 1916, May, 1915, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN MAY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of new disputes in May was 41, as compared with 55 in the previous month and 63 in May, 1915. In these new disputes 11,955 workpeople were directly, and 2,558 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 30,439 workpeople involved in trade disputes in May, 1916, as compared with 54,656 in the previous month and 51,575 in May, 1915.

New Disputes in May, 1916.—In the following Table the new disputes for May are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, etc.

Causes.—Of the 41 new disputes, 22 arose on demands for advances in wages, 4 against proposed reductions in wages, 2 on questions of hours of labour, 5 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 on other matters.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN MAY.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Number of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Cause or Object, Result. Rows include BUILDING, COAL MINING, ENGINEERING, BOOT AND SHOE, TRANSPORT, PRINTING AND PAPER TRADES, FURNISHING, OTHER TRADES.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—27 disputes, involving about 4,800 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

THE increases in rates of wages (including war bonuses), reported to the Department as taking effect in May, affected over 370,000 workpeople, and resulted in a total increase of about £31,000 per week. No decreases in rates were reported.

The industries which accounted for the largest number of workpeople affected were coal mining (over 130,000), woollen and worsted (64,000), engineering (46,000), pottery (40,000), and building (nearly 40,000).

Changes in January-May.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in wages which have been reported to the Department as taking place during the five months ended 31st May, 1916, was about 1,620,000, of whom all but 1,400 received a net increase. The net effect of all these changes was an increase of about £140,000 per week.

The extent to which the different groups of trades have contributed to these totals is shown below:—

Table with 3 columns: Group of Trades, No. of Workpeople affected, Amount of Net Increase per week. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1916.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected, Particulars of Change. Rows include Northern Counties, Birkenhead and District, Blackburn, Bolton and District, Bury & District, Eccles, Swinton and Irlam, Eccles, Heywood, Horwich, Hyde & Denton, Lancaster, Littleborough, Liverpool and District, Macclesfield, Manchester, Salford, and District, Middleton and District, Oldham and District, Radcliffe, Whitefield, and Dist., Ramsbottom.

* Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police, and Government employees.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for 'Changes in Rates of Wages' and 'Changes in Hours of Labour'.

* See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for 'Changes in Rates of Wages' and 'Changes in Hours of Labour'.

* Inclusive of special advance of 5 per cent. granted in March, to take effect from 1st February.

† On weekly wages of 40s. or less, bonuses of 5 to 10 per cent. were granted in January, 1916.

‡ Operatives engaged on Government contracts work under special arrangements as regards piece rates of wages and war bonuses.

§ The increase took effect from various dates, in April and May, on which different furnaces were re-started after a strike.

¶ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

The results of the ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given below :-

Table showing sliding scale changes in wages for coal and iron in various districts like Durham, West of Scotland, etc., with columns for Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Increase of last Audit, and A Year ago.

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Durham coal for the quarter ended 31st March, the Durham Conciliation Board decided that the wages of miners should be advanced by 10 per cent.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blast furnacemen in the West of Scotland were increased by 15 per cent.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers were increased by 9d. per ton (making the rate 13s. 6d.), and those of millmen by 7½ per cent.

Particulars of these changes in wages are given in the Table on p. 219, except as regards puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, for whom the increase dates from 5th June.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MAY.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of May, 1916, was 14, compared with 53 at the end of May, 1915.

Table showing Distress Committees in May, with columns for Districts, No. of Applicants given Employment Relief, Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief, and Total Amount of Wages Paid.

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR AND BREAD.

1.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

(a) Supplies.

Imports.—The quantity of wheat and wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during May, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with May, 1915 and 1914, is shown below:

Table showing imports of wheat and flour, with columns for Quantity imported during May, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with May, 1915, and May, 1914.

During the first nine months (September-May) of the current cereal year, 1915-16, the imports of wheat totalled 73,503,920 cwt., compared with 70,266,630 cwt. and 68,885,785 cwt. in the corresponding period of the 1914-15 and 1913-14 seasons.

Deliveries of British Wheat.—In the following Table the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries are shown for the 39 weeks of the current cereal year, together with the increase compared with a year ago and with two years ago:-

Table showing deliveries of British wheat, with columns for 1915-16, Quantity delivered, and Increase compared with 1914-15 and 1913-14.

(b) Prices.

In the following Table particulars are given of the average declared values and market prices of wheat and wheat meal and flour during May, 1916, with the increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago:-

Table showing prices of wheat, flour, and bread, with columns for May, 1916, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with April, 1916, and May, 1915.

* No quotations during May, 1915. † Comparison with No. 2 Hard Winter. No quotations for Gulf wheat were given during May, 1915.

During May nine-tenths of the total imports of wheat came from the United States and Canada. The quantity from the United States showed an increase of over 4¼ million cwt. compared with a year ago; on the other hand, imports from the Argentine dropped by 3,400,000 cwt.

II.—BREAD.

The price of bread at 1st June was nearly everywhere the same as a month earlier, averaging 8½d. per 4 lb. In the first fortnight of June, however, there has been a number of reductions in price.

Table showing predominant price per 4 lb. on 12th June, 1916, and Last Change, with columns for Place, Predominant Price, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 1st June, and Last Change.

In about one-third of the above towns, including the four largest towns in England, there has been a fall of ½d. per 4 lb. since the beginning of the present month. It is not possible to give average figures for the country as a whole at 12th June, but the following Table, based on returns from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and 30 returns received from other sources, shows the position of prices on 1st June, before the commencement of the downward movement, as compared with that of three months earlier and a year earlier, the average prices of one month ago being the same as those of 1st June.

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. for various districts, with columns for District, 1st June, 1916, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with 1st March, 1916, and 1st June, 1915.

In four of the seven areas, and in the country as a whole, the average price at 1st June was ¼d. per 4 lb. lower than three months earlier, and the same amount higher than a year ago.

Returns from 350 Co-operative Societies are summarised in the following Table, which shows the comparative level of prices charged by such societies at the same dates as in the preceding Table:-

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st June, 1916, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with 1st March, 1916, and 1st June, 1915, for various districts.

The average price charged by the Co-operative Societies on 1st June, 1916, was thus a little lower than three months earlier, and about ¼d. per 4 lb. above that of a year ago.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

The Table below gives details as to the sales in the first quarter of 1916, 1915 and 1911 respectively, by the three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in England, Scotland and Ireland:-

Table showing quarterly returns of sales for Co-operative Wholesale Societies, with columns for Names of Societies and Nature of Business, Sales* in First Quarter of 1916, 1915, 1911, and Percentage Increase compared with A Year ago and Five Years ago.

* The figures given for the productive departments represent sales and transfers to the distributive departments.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax, and of toxic jaundice reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1916, was 55, of which 36 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 8 to anthrax, and 10 to toxic jaundice. Four deaths due to lead poisoning, 2 to anthrax, and 3 to toxic jaundice were also reported. In addition, 4 cases of lead poisoning (two of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

During the five months ended May, 1916, the total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax, and of toxic jaundice reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 230, compared with 178 during the corresponding period of 1915. The number of deaths in 1916 was 23, as compared with 15 in 1915. In addition, there were 35 cases of lead poisoning (including 6 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first five months of 1916, compared with 50 cases (including 18 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1915.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of May 1916, Five Months ended May 1916, May 1915), Deaths (Month of May 1916, Five Months ended May 1916, May 1915). Includes sections for Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, Anthrax, and Toxic Jaundice.

* Both the persons affected in the Pottery Industry were females.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN MAY, 1916.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

THE number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in May, 1916, was 248, an increase of 18 on a month ago and of 19 on a year ago. The mean number for May during the five years 1911-1915 was 255, the maximum being 295 and the minimum 229.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during May, 1916, numbered 33, compared with 35 in April, 1916, and 36 in May, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 103, an increase of 19 on a month ago and of 18 on a year ago. There was 1 fatal accident at quarries, compared with 5 a month ago and 2 a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act in May was 108, an increase of 4 on April, 1916, and of 3 on May, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during May, 1916, was 153, a decrease of 76 on a month ago and of 384 on a year ago.

The Table shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1916, April, 1916, and May, 1915:—

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (May 1916, April 1916, May 1915), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1916, on a (Month ago, Year ago). Includes sections for Railway Service, Mines, Factories and Workshops, Accidents reported under Factory Act, Seamen, and Total including Seamen.

* Including 402 seamen lost in ss. Lusitania.

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in May, 1916, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 155 per 10,000, a decrease of 2 per 10,000 on a month ago and 21 per 10,000 on a year ago.

Compared with the previous month, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 4,921 (or 1.7 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 2,402 (or 1.7 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,519 (or 1.7 per cent.). Every district—except West Ham, Bradford district, Hull and Wolverhampton, which showed no change, and Barnsley and Galway districts, where there was an increase of 1 and 6 respectively—showed a decrease. The largest decreases were in the Central Metropolitan district (11 per 10,000 of population), and in Dublin (10 per 10,000).

Compared with May, 1915, the total number of paupers decreased by 38,059 (or 11.8 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 14,769 (or 9.8 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 23,290 (or 13.5 per cent.). Every district showed a decrease in the rate per 10,000 of population; the largest decreases were in the Central Metropolitan district (46), and in the Stockton and Tees (38). One other district showed a decrease of 30 and under 40 per 10,000, 17 districts a decrease of 20 and under 30 per 10,000, and 15 under 20 per 10,000.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in May, 1916 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago). Includes sections for England & Wales, Metropolitan, Other Districts, Scotland, and Ireland.

* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN MAY.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

THE total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 26th May, 1916, was 9,513, as compared with 12,994 during the four weeks ended 25th April, 1916, and with 23,434 during the four weeks ended 28th May, 1915. Of the total of 9,513 claims, 6,056 (or 64 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 3,457 (or 36 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 2,615, 2,615, 2,211 and 2,072, the average being 2,378, as compared with 3,248 in the four preceding weeks and with 5,859 in May, 1915.

The total amount of unemployment benefit paid direct for the four weeks ended 26th May, 1916, was £1,973, and through associations during the four weeks ended 20th May, 1916, £1,098.

Table with columns: Districts, Average Weekly No. of Claims Made (May 1916, April 1916, May 1915), Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid (£, May 1916, April 1916, May 1915). Includes London, South-Eastern, etc., and UNITED KINGDOM total.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 12TH MAY, 1916.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (386 in number) on 12th May was 135,603, as compared with 132,853 on 14th April, 1916, and 84,774 on 14th May, 1915. These comprise workers in professional, commercial, clerical, as well as industrial occupations.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 377,393 workpeople (men 110,534, women 218,020, boys 21,688, and girls 27,151), as compared with 464,304 in the previous five weeks, and 312,466 in the four weeks ended 14th May, 1915.

The number of vacancies filled was 105,090, a daily average of 4,777, as compared with 4,918 in the previous five weeks, and with 4,169 in the four weeks ended 14th May, 1915.

Table with columns: Men, Women, Boys, Girls, Total. Includes rows for On Register at beginning of period, Registrations during period, Vacancies notified during period, etc.

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on page 196. † Figures for April differ from those published last month owing to the late arrival of the Irish returns for April. ‡ Figures for Association Payments are only available up to 20th May, 1916. § Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e. dock labourers and cloth porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one. ¶ Of the women on the Register 12 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 16 per cent. were reported never to have been in employment.

operatives, but owing to the uncertainty as to the prices of articles of food, &c., as well as to the future of the trade, he was also unable to place such restrictions as would prevent the question being reconsidered at a much earlier period than the employers proposed. He accordingly awarded as follows:

(1) That the present standard piece price list rate of wages be advanced by 5 per cent., such advance to be paid on and after the pay day in the week ending 10th June, 1916.

(2) That the standard piece price list rate of wages, with the above addition, is to continue without change for the remainder of this year (1916) and thereafter subject to six weeks' notice by either employers or operatives at any time after 31st December, 1916.

WOOLLEN WORKERS, HUDDERSFIELD.—Differences having arisen between the Fine Cloth Manufacturers' Association, the Huddersfield and District Woollen Manufacturers' and Spinners' Association, and the Huddersfield and District Yarn Spinners' Association on the one hand and the General Union of Textile Workers on the other, the parties agreed to leave the matters to the decision of Sir George Askwith.

Sir George issued his award on 16th May, granting an increased scale of war bonus to the workpeople concerned.

At the request of the Huddersfield and District Healders' and Twisters' Union and of the Huddersfield and District Warpers' Association, the terms of the award have since been extended to their members.

ROPEWORKERS, LIVERPOOL.—In January, 1916, the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union made application to certain rope-making firms at Liverpool for an advance of wages of 6s. per week on behalf of hemp and wire rope makers' assistants, firemen and skilled workmen, and an increase of 2s. per week to lads, and no settlement having been arrived at, the matter was referred to Sir George Askwith for decision.

Sir George issued his award on 2nd June, deciding that a bonus of 2s. per week to seniors and 1s. per week to juniors shall be paid, subject to certain conditions as to good time-keeping.

FERRYMEN, TYNE.—Application for an advance of wages of 1s. per day and for the payment of Sunday work at overtime rates having been made to Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie & Co., Ltd., by the National Union of Gas and General Workers and by the Northern United Enginemen's Association on behalf of the skippers and enginemen respectively employed by the firm on the direct ferries running between Hebburn and Wallsend-on-Tyne, and no settlement being arrived at between the parties, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., to decide it.

In his award, dated 18th May, Sir David decided that the claim for an advance of wages had not been made out, but that for work done on Sundays and public holidays the men concerned would be paid an increase of 1d. per hour for each hour actually worked.

MINERS, SOUTH WALES.—On 1st November, 1915, joint application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an independent chairman to preside over an inquiry into the question of the rate for the anthracite collieries, as compared with those for other collieries, as provided for in Clause 15 of the Conciliation Board Agreement of 2nd September, 1915.

Sir Laurence Gomme was accordingly appointed, but was obliged, through ill-health, to resign the appointment before the inquiry commenced, and His Honour Judge A. O'Connor, K.C., was appointed in his stead.

Judge O'Connor conducted an exhaustive historical inquiry into the 5 per cent. differentiation between the anthracite district and the rest of the South Wales Coalfield, and issued his report on the matter in May, deciding that the claim of the men that the standard rates in the anthracite area should be regarded as those of the 1879 standard (or, in other words, that there should be equality in standard as well as in percentage) had not been established. With regard to the further question of adjustment consequent on the parties having agreed, in accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Trade, that the difference in the percentage shall be got rid of, and that a common scale of reductions and advances should be adopted on bases corresponding to the '79 standard increased by 50 per cent., but so that the alteration of standard shall not in itself effect an immediate change in wages, Judge O'Connor gave his assent to a system of equivalents until experience shall have shown how it works.

STEEL WORKERS, SHEFFIELD.—The Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinsplate and Kindred Trades Association having failed to come to terms in respect of an application made by the latter for an increase in the war bonus to their members employed in the Sheffield district, application was made to the Department for the appointment of His Honour Judge A. O'Connor, K.C., to decide it.

Judge O'Connor was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 5th June, deciding that an increase of 7½ per cent. should be granted to all men earning not more than 40s. per week, and an increase of 5 per cent. to men earning more than 40s. per week but not more than 60s. per week.

SAILORS AND FIREMEN, CORK.—A difference having arisen between the City of Cork Steam Packet Co., Ltd., and the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union relative to an application made by the latter for an advance of wages of 5s. per week on behalf of their members in the employ of the company, the matter was brought to the attention of the Chief

Industrial Commissioner, who got into touch with the parties and arranged for the men's notices to cease work to be withdrawn pending the reference of the matter to arbitration.

His Honour Judge E. A. Parry was accordingly appointed arbitrator, and issued his award on 20th May, deciding that the workpeople concerned should receive an extra war bonus of 2s. 6d. per week. The arbitrator also decided another matter concerning the payment of a war bonus in the case of a ship detained in harbour.

SHEET IRON WORKERS AND ENGINEERS, CLYDE DISTRICT.—With a view to increasing their output, Messrs. Scotts Shipbuilding & Engineering Co., Ltd., Greenock, introduced a system of piece-work into their sheet iron department, where the work had hitherto been done on time. The innovation was resisted by the Sheet Iron Workers' and Light Platers' Society, on behalf of their members, and the parties being unable to agree on the matter, the difference was reported to the Department, and by them referred to Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., to decide the matter in accordance with Subsection 3 of Section 4 of the Munitions of War Act, 1915.

Mr. Macassey issued his award on 27th May, deciding that the custom of payment on time in the case of the workpeople concerned, does tend to restrict production, and that the system of piece-work should be at once introduced.

Similar matters were referred to Mr. Macassey in respect of the working on the premium bonus system by the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers employed by Messrs. William Beardmore & Co., Ltd., Dalmuir, and Messrs. Bow, MacLachlan & Co., Paisley, in both of which cases Mr. Macassey decided that the system should be introduced.

SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, ALEXANDRIA.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., Alexandria, and the Workers' Union, in connection with an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firm as machine shop workers, main shaft and other oilers, boiler firemen and gas-producers, and negotiations between the parties proving ineffectual, the matter was reported to the Department and duly referred by them to Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., for arbitration.

Mr. Macassey issued his award on 23rd May, partially allowing certain of the claims and disallowing others.

ENGINEERS, COVENTRY.—A difference having arisen between the Daimler Co., Ltd., Coventry, and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and other engineering societies, in respect of a proposal by the firm to extend their ordinary premium bonus system to the members of the societies concerned employed by the firm in testing aircraft engines, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to decide it.

In his award, dated 29th May, Mr. Mackenzie decided that the system should be applied to the fitters other than the actual testers.

ENGINEERS, CHESTER.—Early in the present year the Chester Engineering Trades Joint Committee made application to Messrs. John Summers & Sons, Ltd., Shotton, that their members should participate in the firm's bonus scheme, and the parties being unable mutually to agree upon the matter, the difference was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to arbitrate upon it.

Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 29th May, determining that the claim of the Joint Committee had not been established.

ENGINEERS, BIRKENHEAD.—Messrs. Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., Birkenhead, installed at their works in February, 1914, a gear hobbing machine for the purpose of cutting the gears of geared turbines. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers claimed that the machine in question should be manned by a skilled mechanic, and that the putting of a semi-skilled man on the work was a change of custom or practice which should be recorded under Schedule II. of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, but this was contested by the firm on the ground that, after the machine had been properly set, its working was automatic. The parties being unable to agree upon the matter, it was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed arbitrator to decide it.

Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 27th May, deciding that the Union had failed to establish their claim.

COKE OVEN AND POWER HOUSE MEN, MANCHESTER.—Messrs. The Partington Steel and Iron Co., Ltd., Manchester, and the British Steel Smelters Mill, Iron, Tinsplate and Kindred Trades Association mutually agreed upon certain changes in wages, and the proposal was duly submitted to the Minister of Munitions for his sanction. The Minister withheld his consent to the proposed increases, and in accordance with his powers under Section 4 (2) of the Munitions of War Act, referred the matter for settlement by arbitration.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 20th May, deciding that the several proposed advances should be sanctioned.

SUBMARINE RIVETERS, CLYDE DISTRICT.—In March, 1915, difficulties arose in the Clyde shipyards in connection with the rates of wages to be paid to members of the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society employed in the riveting of submarines. Lengthy correspondence ensued between the parties, but without effecting a settlement, and the matter was reported to the Department. Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed to act as arbiter in the

matter, and after meeting the parties, decided that the parties should themselves endeavour by means of conferences mutually to arrange a list of rates. Conferences were duly held, but the matter still remaining undecided, it was again referred to the decision of Sheriff Mackenzie, who, assisted by Mr. Walter Dodd as technical assessor, drew up a list of the rates to be paid for submarines of the E class, and embodied them in an award dated 1st June.

JOINERS, GLASGOW.—On 17th March, 1916, application was made to the Department by the joint secretaries of the Conciliation Board for the joiner trade in the Glasgow district for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide certain matters in dispute in connection with wages and working rules. A court was accordingly appointed, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Mr. James Currie, and Mr. James Gavin.

The court issued its award on 22nd May, deciding that the rate of wages should be increased from 11d. to 11½d. per hour, and determining certain other points in connection with the working rules.

BUILDING TRADES, CHELTENHAM.—Application having been made to the Department by the Cheltenham Master Builders' Association and the Cheltenham Building Trades Joint Committee for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide certain matters in dispute between them in connection with the wages to be paid to certain classes of workpeople, Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to act in that capacity.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 30th May, fixing the rates of wages to be paid as follows: (1) Plasterers and plumbers, 9½d. per hour, painters, 9½d. per hour; (2) labourers, 6½d. per hour, and scaffolders, stone sawyers and drainers, 7d. per hour, and to these men, in addition, extra war wages of 4d. per day for every day upon which full time is worked at ordinary rates.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES, CHELTENHAM.—On 1st February, 1916, the Cheltenham Building Trades Joint Committee made application to Messrs. H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd., for an advance of wages of 2d. an hour on behalf of various grades of building trades employees, and no settlement being arrived at between the parties, the matter was reported to the Department, and duly referred to Mr. Charles Doughty for arbitration.

Mr. Doughty, in an award dated 19th May, decided that the wages of joiners and wood cutting machinists shall be increased by 1d. per hour and that the wages of labourers shall be increased by ½d. an hour. In addition, extra war wages of 4d. per day shall be paid to every labourer who works the full normal hours each day without losing time.

SPELTER WORKERS, SWANSEA.—A difference having arisen between the English Crown Spelter Co., Ltd., and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union respecting an application for an advance of wages and for extra payment for Sunday work, the matter was reported to the Department, and duly referred to Mr. Charles Doughty as arbitrator.

Mr. Doughty heard the parties on 3rd June, and issued his award, giving certain increases of wages and of Sunday allowance.

STEEL SMELTERS, NEAR NEWPORT (MON.).—The Monmouthshire Steel and Tinplate Co., Pontymyster, nr. Newport (Mon.), recently dismissed one of their workpeople, a member of the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinsplate and Kindred Trades Association, for alleged negligence in the discharge of his duties. The Association claimed that the dismissal was wrongful, and the parties being unable to agree upon the matter, it was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to decide it.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 30th May, upholding the Association's claim and deciding that the man should be reinstated in his former position.

COAL AND TAP WHEELERS, WALSHALL.—A difference having arisen between the Walshall District Iron Co., Ltd., and certain of their workpeople employed as coal and tap wheelers in connection with an application for an advance of wages, and the parties themselves being unable mutually to agree on the matter, it was reported to the Department, and duly referred to Mr. Charles Doughty for arbitration.

In his award, dated 30th May, Mr. Doughty granted certain increases of wages to the workpeople concerned.

CLERKS, MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD AND CYFARTHFA.—The National Union of Clerks made application to Messrs. Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester, Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield, and Messrs. Crawshaw Bros. (Cyfarthfa), Ltd., Cyfarthfa, respectively, for advances of wages and other alterations of working conditions on behalf of their members in the employ of the firms, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the differences were reported to the Department, and duly referred to Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., for arbitration.

Mr. Page issued his awards on 5th June, deciding that in each case the Union had failed to establish their claims.

NEWPORT (MON.) (1) ENGINEERS.—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers recently made application to the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company for an advance of wages and a reduction of working hours on behalf of their members in the company's employ, and the company having refused to concede the claims, the parties agreed to refer the matter to arbitration.

Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., was accordingly appointed to act in that capacity, and issued his award on 6th June, increasing the weekly rate of wages from 40s. to 41s., but disallowing the claim in respect of reduced working hours.

(2) IRONFOUNDERS.—In his award, respecting an application simultaneously made to the company by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders for an advance of wages, Mr. Page found that the claim had not been established.

(3) SMITHS' HAMMERMEN.—The Smiths' Hammermen's Society similarly applied to the above company for an advance of wages on behalf of their members, and Mr. Page, to whom this matter was also referred, decided, in his award of 6th June, that the rate of wages should remain unchanged, but that the war bonus should be increased from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per week.

(4) MASONS' LABOURERS.—Mr. Page also dealt with a claim for an advance of wages made to the company by the masons' labourers in their employ, and decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be increased from 6½d. to 7d. per hour.

DOCK PILOTS, NEWPORT.—Joint application was made to the Department by the Newport Shipowners' Association and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide differences that had arisen between them in connection with the rates of pay of dock pilots, and Mr. Ernest Page, K.C., was appointed to act in that capacity.

Prior to the arbitration proceedings, the Employers' Association had offered the men concerned an advance of 12½ per cent. on their rates of pay, but the offer was refused. Mr. Page issued his award on 6th June, deciding that the rates of wages should be advanced 12½ per cent. and no more.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, BUXTON.—Certain of the employees of the Buxton Urban District Council having ceased work in support of an application for an advance of wages, made on their behalf by the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers, the matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who entered into communication with the parties and arranged for work to be resumed pending the reference of the matter to arbitration.

Mr. E. Forbes Lankester, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 5th June, granting certain increases of wages and determining certain other matters in dispute.

FILE CUTTERS, &c., SHEFFIELD.—In March an agreement was effected between the Sheffield File Manufacturers' Association and the Sheffield Amalgamated Union of File Trades, which provided for the payment of an additional war bonus of 5 per cent. to the members of the Union. Subsequently, Messrs. Bromley, Fisher and Turton, Ltd., Sheffield, refused to grant the war bonus in question, and no settlement being arrived at between the parties, the matter was referred to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Department.

Sir William Robinson was accordingly appointed to act in that capacity, and issued his award on 18th May, deciding that the additional war bonus of 5 per cent. should be paid to all workpeople employed by the firm on forging or cutting files.

SAWMAKERS, SHEFFIELD.—Messrs. Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Sheffield, having refused to concede an application made by the National Steel Workers' Association Engineering and Labour League and the Sawmakers' Protection Society for increased overtime rates on behalf of their members employed in the firm's saw department, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Sir William Robinson to decide it.

Sir William issued his award on 22nd May determining the rates to be paid.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, LEICESTER.—The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Leicester being unable to settle or determine a claim by the operatives' union for an additional war bonus, the matter was referred to two arbitrators, and they being unable to agree, application was made to the Department for the appointment of Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., as umpire to decide the question.

Mr. Smith met the parties on 18th May, when it was mutually agreed that the following war bonus rates should be paid in substitution of the existing bonus:

To all female operatives of 18 years of age and over and to all youths of 18 and under 21 years of age, 2s. 6d.; to all male operatives of 21 years of age and over, (a) earning under 35s. per week, 4s.; (b) earning 35s. and under 45s. per week, 3s. 6d.; (c) earning 45s. per week and upwards, 3s.

Mr. Smith was also appointed to decide the piecework prices to be paid for lasting the Russian Army boot, upon which matter the Conciliation Board and its arbitrators were unable to agree, and met the parties on 16th and 22nd May, when an agreement on the points in dispute was arrived at.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, BRISTOL.—The Bristol Federated Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives having failed to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an additional payment as war bonus and with regard to fixing the clicking prices for cutting the Russian Army boot, joint application was made to the Department, and Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., was appointed to act as umpire to decide the matter.

Mr. Smith issued his award on 27th May, deciding that there shall be paid to each male day or piecework operative of 21 years and upwards (whether engaged on civil or army work) a flat rate bonus of 3s. 6d. per week additional to his day or piecework earnings. Mr. Smith also fixed the prices in question for clicking.

ENGINEERS, &C., PORT TALBOT.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. The Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., Port Talbot, and the Welsh Artizans' United Association, with respect to an application made by the latter for an advance of wages and alterations of working conditions on behalf of various classes of workpeople in the firm's employ, it was agreed between the parties to refer the matter to arbitration, and at their request the Department appointed Mr. F. W. Gibbins to act in that capacity.

Mr. Gibbins issued his award on 1st June, deciding the matters in dispute.

LABOURERS, DARTMOUTH.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Philip & Son, Ltd., Dartmouth, and Messrs. Simpson, Strickland & Co., Ltd., Dartmouth, on the one hand, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers Union on the other, relative to an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firms as unskilled labourers, semi-skilled labourers and boys, and negotiations between the parties proving unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, and duly referred to Mr. F. N. Keen for arbitration.

Mr. Keen issued his award on 29th May, deciding that on and after 22nd July next, if the war shall then be still continuing, the wages of unskilled and semi-skilled labourers should be increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour on time rates, with an equivalent increase on piece rates. With regard to boys, Mr. Keen decided that before the date above referred to, the firms should consider, and if necessary increase, the wages presently paid to boys.

GENERAL LABOURERS, WEST HARTLEPOOL.—A section of the general labourers in the employ of the Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, made application to the firm for an advance of wages of 5s. per week on time rates and 20 per cent. on piece rates, and the parties being unable to come to a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and by them referred to Mr. F. N. Keen for arbitration.

Mr. Keen issued his award on 3rd June, increasing the war bonuses of 3s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates then being paid to the squad in question to 5s. per week on time rates and 15 per cent. on piece rates.

PICKLING TANKMEN, JARROW-ON-TYNE.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Palmers Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., Jarrow-on-Tyne, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, in regard to the number of men required to deal with bars of certain dimensions in the process of pickling, and the parties being unable to arrive at a settlement on the matter, it was reported to the Department, who referred it to the arbitration of Mr. F. N. Keen.

In his award, dated 23rd May, Mr. Keen decided the points in dispute.

PAINTERS, ERITH, DARTFORD AND BEXLEY.—Joint application was made to the Department by the masters and operative painters in the Dartford, Erith and Bexley districts, for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide certain matters in dispute between them, and Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed to act in that capacity.

In his award, dated 5th June, Mr. Willis decided that the standard rate of wages to be paid to skilled painters and decorators shall be increased from 8d. to 9d. an hour, such increase to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

WOODCUTTING MACHINISTS, BURTON-ON-TRENT.—Messrs. J. B. Kind, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent, and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists, being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. A. Willis was duly appointed to decide it.

In his award, dated 3rd June, Mr. Willis found that the society had failed to establish their claim.

CARTRIDGE MAKERS, BIRMINGHAM.—The Workers' Union recently made application to the Birmingham Metal and Munitions Co., Ltd., for an increase of overtime rates on behalf of their members employed in the cartridge and certain other departments of the firm, and the parties themselves being unable mutually to arrange the matter, it was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. A. Willis to decide it.

Mr. Willis issued his award on 7th June, deciding the overtime rates to be paid in the Departments concerned.

CHEMICAL WORKERS, GLASGOW.—In February, 1916, the National Union of Gas and General Workers made application to Messrs. Richard Smith's Executors, Ltd., Glasgow, for an increase of wages and overtime rates on behalf of their members employed by the firm as processmen and labourers, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who referred it to Professor R. Lodge for decision.

In his award, dated 27th May, Professor Lodge increased the war bonus of 2s. per week then being paid by the firm, to one of 4s. per week, and decided that the claim for increased rates of pay for overtime should not be allowed.

BOILER AND PIPE COVERERS, GLASGOW.—On 14th December, 1915, the Workers' Union made application to the Glasgow Master Boiler and Pipe Coverers' Association for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on behalf of their members, and

raised certain questions in connection with the employment of female labour. The parties being themselves unable to come to terms on the matter, the difference was reported to the Department, who appointed Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., to decide it.

In his award, dated 22nd May, Professor Irvine decided that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, such increase to be in substitution for the war bonus of 1s. per week previously being paid. The arbiter also determined the rates of wages to be paid to women workers.

PLUMBERS, PAISLEY.—In response to an application made to the Department by the master and operative plumbers at Paisley for the appointment of an arbiter to decide certain matters in dispute between them in connection with wages, &c., Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., was appointed to act in that capacity.

In his award, dated 11th May, Professor Irvine decided that the standard rate of wages in Paisley and district, including Renfrew and Barrhead, shall be $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, being an increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour.

FURNISHING TRADE WORKERS, GLASGOW.—Messrs. The Bennet Furnishing Co., Ltd., Glasgow, and the Workers' Union, being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages and an alteration in overtime rates on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, the matter was reported to the Department, and Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., was appointed arbiter therein.

Professor Irvine issued his award on 26th May, deciding that the rates of pay for the several classes of workpeople should be $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for finishers, painters and desk fitters, $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for machinemen (buffing and sandpapering) and for labourers. He also fixed the rate of payment for overtime at time and a quarter.

CAULKERS, GLASGOW.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Dunlop Bremner & Co., Ltd., Port Glasgow, and the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, in connection with a claim made by the latter with respect to the rates of wages to be paid to their members employed by the firm in caulking the decks of a new class of vessel described as an Admiralty paddle-steamer mine-sweeper, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who referred it to the arbitration of Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing.

Sheriff Laing issued his award on 30th May, deciding that the claims had not been established.

MOTOR BODY WORKERS, ABERDEEN.—Messrs. R. J. Shinnie, Ltd., Aberdeen, received from the United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers an application for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on behalf of the bodymakers, painters and trimmers, members of the Society in their employ, but were unwilling to concede the claim. No settlement being arrived at between the parties, the matter was reported to the Department, and by them referred to Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing for decision.

Sheriff Laing accordingly heard the parties in Aberdeen, and issued his award on 17th May, increasing the minimum rates of wages by 1d. per hour, and deciding that no alteration should be made in the existing piece rates.

IRONWORKERS, GLASGOW.—The employees of Messrs. Macfarlane, Strang & Co., Ltd., Glasgow, made application to the firm for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour on time rates and 20 per cent. on piece rates. The claim was not conceded by the firm, and negotiations between the parties having proved unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, and by them referred to Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., for arbitration.

Mr. Sandeman issued his award on 27th May, granting increases of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour to time workers and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to piece workers.

KEG MAKERS AND MACHINE-MEN, GLASGOW.—Messrs. J. G. Garrick & Co., Glasgow, and the Workers' Union being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firm as keg makers and machine-men, the matter was reported to the Department and by them referred to the arbitration of Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C.

Mr. Sandeman issued his award on 7th June, deciding that the keg makers had not established their claim, and granting an increase of wages of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour to the machine-men.

LABOURERS, GLASGOW.—The Clyde Valley Electrical Power Co. and the National Union of Gas and General Workers being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for increased wages and overtime rates on behalf of their members engaged by the firm as labourers on outside work, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. James Macdonald to arbitrate upon it.

In his award, dated 25th May, Mr. Macdonald decided that the Union had failed to establish their claims.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.—The Board of Trade have referred during the month further cases to the Special Arbitration Tribunal constituted under Sections 6 and 8 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916 (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1916, p. 153). Such cases are (1) a claim by the National Federation of Women Workers in respect of the night shift rates of women employed in the rubber and braiding departments of Messrs. Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., Woolwich; (2) a claim made by the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers for a certain schedule of wages on behalf of their female members employed by Mr.

Charles Baynes, Engineer and Machinist, near Blackburn; (3) a claim made by the Workers' Union on behalf of the girls employed in the soldering shop of Messrs. A. Harper, Sons & Bean, Ltd., Dudley; (4) a claim made by the National Federation of Women Workers on behalf of their members employed in the motor and aeroplane works of Messrs. D. Napier & Sons, Ltd., Acton.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, p. 83, and August, 1915, p. 280), have issued decisions on further cases referred to them. The following are summaries of the Committee's findings issued during May:—

MESSRS. JOHN CRAWLEY & Co., LTD., SHEFFIELD (ISSUED 2ND MAY).—This finding is in respect of proposals for changes in the rates of wages of machine moulders and tub moulders employed by the firm, whose establishment is controlled. Application for an increase in wages to the men concerned was made to the firm by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, and after negotiations the firm agreed to submit certain proposals to the Minister of Munitions for sanction in accordance with Section 4 of the Munitions of War Act, 1915. The Minister's sanction was withheld, and the matter was subsequently referred to the Committee on Production, who decided the advances that should be made in settlement of the Union's claim.

TEMPLATE MAKERS, MESSRS. A. & J. MAIN, LTD. (ISSUED 2ND MAY).—Application having been made by the template makers employed at the firm's Clydesdale Works to be paid the same rate of wages as the template workers at the firm's Germiston Works, negotiations took place between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at and the matter was duly referred to the Committee. The Committee decided that the conditions of work at the two establishments are not sufficiently similar to require the payment of the same rates; that the present rate of the Clydesdale men shall be raised from 42s. to 43s. per week; and that the "war bonus" of 3s. per week now being paid to the men shall be increased to 4s. per week.

BRASSWORKERS, YORKSHIRE (ISSUED 2ND MAY).—This finding is in respect of an application made to the Employers' Brassworkers' Association by the National Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics on behalf of members of the Union employed at Brighouse, Doncaster, Halifax, Rotherham and Sheffield. In March, 1915, by agreement between the parties the wages of the men concerned were advanced 4s. per week on day rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates. The present claim was for a "war bonus" of 5s. per week to both day and pieceworkers, and the Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

APPRENTICES, MESSRS. SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH & Co., LTD., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (ISSUED 2ND MAY).—Under the terms of their engagements with the firm the apprentices receive payment on a scale varying according to age and service, commencing at 7s. per week for those aged from 16 to 17 years, and the majority of the apprentices have signed indentures to serve an apprenticeship at the agreed rates. In March, 1915, a "war bonus" of 2s. per week was paid in addition to the existing rate. The present difference was a claim put forward on behalf of the apprentices for a revised schedule of rates. The Committee decided that the claim is not one that should be granted.

MESSRS. HENRY BESSEMER & Co., LTD., BOLTON (ISSUED 3RD MAY).—The Committee had referred to them by the Minister of Munitions for settlement, in accordance with the provisions of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, a proposal agreed on between Messrs. Henry Bessemer & Co., Ltd., and the Amalgamated Society of Steel and Iron Workers of Great Britain for an increase in the rates of wages of men employed in the firm's rolling mills and forging departments. The Committee decided that the agreement should be sanctioned.

ENGINEERS, MESSRS. THE VULCAN MOTOR AND ENGINEERING (1906) Co., LTD., SOUTHPORT (ISSUED 3RD MAY).—In March, 1915, the men concerned received an advance of wages of 2s. per week on time rates and 5 per cent. on piece rates under an agreement between the parties, and in August, 1915, a further advance of 2s. per week on time rates under a finding of the Committee. The present claim was an application for a "war bonus," and the Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

HAMMER-DRIVERS, MESSRS. SANDERSON BROTHERS & NEWBOULD, LTD., SHEFFIELD (ISSUED 4TH MAY).—This finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages to hammer-drivers made to the firm by the Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society. In March, 1915, the men in question received an advance of 3s. per week, paid as a "war bonus," and not taken into account in calculating payment for overtime. The Committee decided that as from the beginning of the first full pay in January, 1916, the "war bonus" of 3s. per week should be paid as an advance of wages and taken into account in calculating overtime payment, and that as from the first full pay in March, 1916, the advance of 3s. per week should be increased to 4s. per week.

MESSRS. CLEMENT TALBOT & Co., LTD., LADBROKE GROVE, W. (ISSUED 5TH MAY).—This finding is in respect of a difference between the firm (members of the London and District Association of Engineering Employers) and their workpeople, represented by certain trade unions, as to the rate of payment of men engaged on night shift. The rate of payment claimed by the men is time and a half; the rate of payment made by the firm is time and a quarter. The Committee decided that the rate of payment should be time and a half, this decision to be regarded as based solely on war conditions and upon the circumstances of the firm in question, and is without prejudice to the case of other firms or to the settlement of the general question between the Employers' Association and the Unions.

WAGES OF COTTON OPERATIVES (ISSUED 16TH MAY).—The following memorandum was issued on 16th May:

The Committee on Production have had under consideration representations which have been made to them in regard to their finding of 21st July, 1915, under which the wages of cotton operatives were advanced 5 per cent. upon the standard piece price lists as from the first settling day following 17th June, 1915.

The Committee now record: (1) That the advance of 5 per cent. is to continue for the period of the war and for three months after the declaration of peace; it is further to continue in force until either the employers or the operatives shall have given not less than three months' notice of intention to alter wages, such notice to be given at any time after the expiration of the said three months; (2) that the said advance of 5 per cent. does not preclude the putting forward of an application at any time for a further advance of wages.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, NEWARK (ISSUED 16TH MAY).—In the early part of 1915 the men concerned received an advance of wages, the predominant advance given being 2s. per week and a "war bonus" of 2s. per week. The application referred to the Committee was for an advance of 3s. per week on time rates and $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. on piece rates. The decision of the Committee was that the time rates of the men should be advanced 1s. per week, the advance not being intended to apply to or affect piece prices.

ENGINEERING TRADES (NIGHT SHIFT WORK), BLACKBURN DISTRICT (ISSUED 16TH MAY).—This finding relates to a difference between the Blackburn District Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and Allied Trade Unions, regarding the rate to be paid for night shift work by certain firms of textile machinists in the Blackburn district in connection with the manufacture of shell. Without prejudice to any re-adjustment which may be made by agreement between the parties or otherwise after the war, the Committee decided that the rates claimed by the Unions should be paid, viz.: time and a quarter for the first four hours and time and a quarter for subsequent hours up to 6 a.m., with an allowance of 5d. per night.

MESSRS. W. T. HENLEY'S TELEGRAPH WORKS Co., LTD., NORTH WOLWICH (ISSUED 16TH MAY).—In December, 1915, the Workers' Union made application to the firm for various advances of wages and alterations of working conditions, and no settlement being arrived at the matter was referred to the Committee. The Committee decided that in settlement of the various claims, the existing war bonus of 10 per cent. on earnings with a maximum of 3s. per week, shall be converted into a war bonus of 15 per cent. on earnings with a maximum of 4s. 6d. per week.

MESSRS. JOHN SUMMERS & Sons, LTD., SHOTTON (ISSUED 16TH MAY).—This finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages to certain employees made to the firm by the Workers' Union. The men concerned participated in the "war bonus" granted to the various grades of employees in the works in May, 1915, and in the increased "bonus" granted in December, 1915, by arrangement between the firm and a number of unions representing the bulk of the employees of the company. The Committee decided that the claim of the Workers' Union for a further increase to the men in question had not been established.

ENGINEERS, MESSRS. SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON Co., LTD., WEST HARTLEPOOL (ISSUED 18TH MAY).—The difference referred to the Committee was a claim of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers that their members employed at the company's West Hartlepool Works should be paid for overtime on the first five days of the week at the rate of time and a quarter from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and time and a half thereafter. The Committee decided that these rates should be paid.

BRIDGE BUILDERS, STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, GLASGOW DISTRICT (ISSUED 23RD MAY).—This finding related to claims in regard to advances of wages, &c., made by the Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society to certain firms of bridge builders, structural engineers, &c., in the Glasgow district. These claims included uniform rates of wages for template makers, platers (including punchers and shearers), riveters, caulkers, and holders-up, and increases in piece rates, overtime, &c. The Committee decided that the claim for the uniform rates of wages for these classes had not been established, but they awarded various increases on time and piece rates, and fixed the rate of payment for overtime at time and a half.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, MESSRS. DENNIS BROS. (1903) LTD., GUILDFORD (ISSUED 23RD MAY).—By an agreement of June, 1914, the wages of adult fitters, turners, &c., were advanced one farthing per hour, and a further advance of the

same amount was given three months later. In April, 1915, an agreement was arrived at under which the men received a war wages advance of three farthings per hour; at the same time the allowance in regard to good timekeeping was increased. A claim for a further advance being referred to them, the Committee decided that (1) an advance of ¼d. per hour should be given to adult workpeople at present in receipt of less than 9d. per hour, and (2) that the war wages advance of ¼d. per hour should be increased to 1d. per hour.

LABOURERS, TODMORDEN (ISSUED 24TH MAY).—Application having been made by the Workers' Union to Messrs. Lord Brothers, Ltd., for an advance of wages to engineering employees at Todmorden, agreement was arrived at as to the amount of the advance but not as to the date on which the advances should come into operation. The Committee decided the point on the matter being referred to them.

ENGINEERS, TODMORDEN (ISSUED 24TH MAY).—Application for an advance of wages having been made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers on behalf of engineering employees at Todmorden, and the matter being referred to the Committee, they decided that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced 2s. per week on time rates and 5 per cent. on piece rates.

SHIP PLUMBERS, DUNDEE (ISSUED 25TH MAY).—Application having been made by the Dundee Lodge of the United Operative Plumbers' and Domestic Engineers' Association to the Dundee Shipbuilders' Association, and the matter being referred to the Committee on Production for decision, the Committee awarded an advance of wages of ¼d. per hour.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES, ROYAL ENGINEERS, WOOLWICH DISTRICT (ISSUED 25TH MAY).—This finding is in respect of a claim made to the Army Council by the Operative Bricklayers' Society and other Unions connected with the Building Trade that their members employed under the supervision of the Commanding Royal Engineer, Woolwich District, should receive the "war wage" advance of 4s. per week which was granted by the Ministry of Munitions in September, 1915, to the building trades workmen in the Woolwich Arsenal as part of an advance given to employees generally in that establishment, following an agreement between the London and District Association of Engineering Employers and the Engineering Trade Unions. The men are paid the rates of wages recognised as current in the London district for building trades operatives, and in addition they have received since December, 1914, a "bonus" of 3s. per week in the case of tradesmen and 2s. per week in the case of labourers, this "bonus" having been granted to the War Department employees in the London district. The Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

PLATERS' HELPERS, STAGERS, &C., MESSRS. HARLAND & WOLFF, LTD., BELFAST (ISSUED 25TH MAY).—In respect of a claim made to the firm by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour (on behalf of certain of their members) for extra "dirt" money allowances, the Committee decided that where old work (dirt money) allowance is paid to skilled men, there shall be paid 3d. per day to helpers and labourers not already receiving allowance. The allowance of 3d. per day shall also be paid to general labourers and staggers when working on board old ships.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, SOUTHAMPTON (ISSUED 26TH MAY).—This finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages of 5s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates made on behalf of men in the engineering and allied trades of Southampton. The grades of men concerned received in March, 1915, an advance of wages of 4s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates, following a similar advance given in the other shipbuilding districts of the country; in addition, on the outbreak of war, increased overtime allowances were granted, viz., double time for all work done after 5 p.m. The Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

ENGINEERING TRADES, BARROW (ISSUED 27TH MAY).—Application for an advance of wages having been made to the Barrow Engineering Employers' Association by the Joint Wages Board comprising various engineering trade unions, and the matter being referred to the Committee on Production, they decided that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates.

ENGINEERING TRADES, LEEDS (ISSUED 27TH MAY).—In respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Leeds and District Engineering Employers' Association by the Leeds and District Engineering and Allied Trades Joint Committee, it was decided that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates.

ENGINEERING TRADES, HALIFAX (ISSUED 27TH MAY).—Application for an advance of wages having been made to the Halifax District Engineering Employers' Association by the Halifax Engineering Trades Joint Committee, and the matter being referred to the Committee on Production, they decided that the wages should be advanced 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates.

ENGINEERING TRADES, BRADFORD (ISSUED 27TH MAY).—The Committee awarded an advance of wages of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates in respect of an

application for an advance of wages made to the Bradford District Engineering Employers' Association by the Bradford and District Engineering and Allied Trades Joint Committee.

FOUNDRY LABOURERS, COMBE BARBOUR BRANCH OF MESSRS. FAIRBAIRN LAWSON COMBE BARBOUR, LTD., BELFAST (ISSUED 30TH MAY).—In February, 1916, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour made application for an advance of wages of 6s. 6d. per week, and for revised overtime rates of payment on behalf of the labourers, furnacemen, crane-men, &c., employed in the firm's Foundry Department. On the matter being referred to the Committee they decided that, in settlement of these claims, the wages of the men concerned should be advanced by 2s. per week.

PATTERNMAKERS, ST. HELENS (ISSUED 30TH MAY).—Application for an advance of wages having been made to the St. Helens Engineering Employers' Association by the St. Helens branch of the United Patternmakers' Association, and the matter being referred to the Committee, they decided that the wages should be advanced 1s. per week.

MESSRS. ABERTHAW AND BRISTOL CHANNEL PORTLAND CEMENT CO., LTD. (ISSUED 30TH MAY).—Questions of difference as to an advance of wages and the payment of the war bonus to men who worked during the week of Christmas, 1915, having arisen between the above firm and the National Amalgamated Union of Engine-men, &c., the Committee decided (1) that the existing war bonus of 2s. per week should be converted into a war bonus of 4s. per week, payable at the rate of 8d. per day for each full day worked, and (2) that those men who worked each day during the week of Christmas, 1915, upon which their work was available to them, should be paid for those days a proportionate amount of the bonus.

IRONFOUNDERS, STALYBRIDGE, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, GLOSSOP (ISSUED 30TH MAY).—This finding related to an application for an advance of wages made by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders to a number of firms in the Stalybridge district. The Committee decided that the wages should be advanced 1s. per week.

SMITHS' STRIKERS, DUNDEE (ISSUED 31ST MAY).—Application for an advance of wages to smiths' strikers having been made to the Dundee Association of Engineers and Ironfounders by the United Kingdom Society of Smiths and Strikers, and the matter being referred to the Committee, they awarded an advance of 2s. per week.

ENGINEERS, DUNDEE (ISSUED 31ST MAY).—This finding related to an application for an advance of wages and for the establishment of a minimum rate of 9½d. per hour to engineers made to the Dundee Association of Engineers and Ironfounders by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The Committee decided that the men's wages should be advanced 1s. per week.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS UNDER THE MUNITIONS OF WAR ACTS, 1915 AND 1916

No. 279

ORDER, DATED MAY 1, 1916, MADE BY THE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 7 OF THE MUNITIONS OF WAR ACT, 1915 (5 & 6 GEO. 5, C. 54), AS AMENDED BY SECTION 5 OF THE MUNITIONS OF WAR (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1916 (5 & 6 GEO. 5, C. 99).

The Minister of Munitions, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 7, sub-section 1, of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, as amended by Section 5 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916, hereby makes the following Order:—

The provisions of Section 7 of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, as amended by Section 5 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916 (which relate to the prohibition of the employment of persons who have left work in Munitions Factories), shall apply to the following classes of establishments in addition to the class of establishments specified in the Order made by the Minister in pursuance of Section 7 of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, on July 14th, 1915:—

- (1) Any establishment supplying electrical light or power in cases where the Minister of Munitions certifies that such supply is of importance for the purpose of carrying on munitions work;
- (2) Any establishment which has been or may hereafter be declared to be a controlled establishment by an Order of the Minister made either in pursuance of Section 4 of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, or of Section 1 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916.

Dated this 1st day of May, 1916.

H. Llewellyn Smith,
General Secretary.

No. 314.

ORDER, DATED MAY 12, 1916, MADE BY THE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 9, SUB-SECTION 1, OF THE MUNITIONS OF WAR (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1916 (5 & 6 GEO. 5, C. 99).

Whereas it is provided by Section 9, sub-section 1 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916, that the "munitions work" for the purposes of that Act a

Munitions of War Act, 1915, means (*inter alia*) the manufacture or repair of the materials of any class specified in an Order made for the purpose by the Minister of Munitions required for or for use in any manufacture or repair of such articles and things as are more fully set out in paragraph (a) of the said sub-section:

Now, therefore, in virtue of the power vested in him by the above-mentioned section and of all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Minister of Munitions hereby orders that the manufacture or repair of the material specified in the Schedule appended hereto in so far as it is required for or for use in any manufacture or repair of such articles and things as are more fully set out in paragraph (a) of the said sub-section shall be munitions work.

Schedule.

CARD CLOTHING.

This Order shall come into operation on the 12th day of May, 1916, and shall be supplementary to the Order made by me upon February 14th, 1916.

Dated 12th May, 1916.

H. Llewellyn Smith,
General Secretary.

6, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

LACE FINISHING TRADE.

FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD.

In accordance with the Regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Lace Finishing Trade Board, three representatives of employers and three representatives of workers retired on 14th May. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 14th May, 1916:—

Representatives of Employers:—*Mr. F. W. Christall, *Mr. R. Lowe, *Mr. H. Wood.

Representatives of Workers:—*Miss S. Cresswell, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Scott.

TIN BOX AND CANISTER TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

OBLIGATORY ORDER.

In pursuance of their powers under the above Act, the Board of Trade have made an order, dated 30th May, 1916, making obligatory, in cases in which they are applicable, the minimum rates of wages for male and female workers, fixed by the Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain), which came into limited operation on 29th November, 1915.†

Any agreement for the payment of wages at less than the above-mentioned minimum rates, clear of all deductions (except those made in accordance with the National Insurance Acts), will henceforth be void. The penalty for paying wages after 30th May, 1916, at rates less than those which have now been made obligatory by the Board of Trade is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence. In certain circumstances, however, the Trade Board may, in the case of time-workers who are affected by infirmity or physical injury, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum time-rates.

PAPER BOX TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

OBLIGATORY ORDER.

In pursuance of their powers under the above Act, the Board of Trade have made an order, dated 7th June, 1916, making obligatory, in cases in which they are applicable, the minimum rates of wages for female workers, as varied by the Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain), which came into limited operation on 6th December, 1915.†

Any agreement for the payment of wages at less than the above-mentioned minimum rates, clear of all deductions (except those made in accordance with the National Insurance Acts), will henceforth be void. The penalty for paying wages after 7th June, 1916, at rates less than those which have now been made obligatory by the Board of Trade is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence. In certain circumstances, however, the Trade Board may, in the case of time-workers who are affected by infirmity or physical injury, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum time-rates.

SHIRTMAKING TRADE.

IRELAND.

OBLIGATORY ORDER.

In pursuance of their powers under the above Act, the Board of Trade have made an order, dated 7th June, 1916, making obligatory, in cases in which they are applicable, the

* Retiring member reappointed.

† See LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1915, page 387.

‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1915, page 427.

minimum time-rates of wages for female workers and the general minimum piece-rates of wages for home workers, fixed by the Shirtmaking Trade Board (Ireland), which came into limited operation on 6th December, 1915.*

Any agreement for the payment of wages at less than the above-mentioned minimum rates, clear of all deductions (except those made in accordance with the National Insurance Acts), will henceforth be void. The penalty for paying wages after 7th June, 1916, at rates less than those which have now been made obligatory by the Board of Trade is a fine not exceeding £20 for each offence. In certain circumstances, however, the Trade Board may, in the case of time-workers who are affected by infirmity or physical injury, grant permits exempting their employment from the operation of the minimum time-rates.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, the Board of Trade hereby give notice of the following decisions by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

A. The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable in respect of:—

1547. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of aeroplane bombs other than those made of sheet metal. (Application 360.)

B. The Umpire has decided that contributions are not payable in respect of:—

1545. Workmen employed by a firm of hosiery manufacturers and described as needle casters. (Application 359.)

1546. Workmen described as steel bottle makers, and engaged in shaping steel tubes into bottles or cylinders for containing gases. (Application 355.)

1548. Mine smiths employed by a tin-mining company, when engaged wholly or mainly in sharpening rock drills and miners' tools, repairing pit cages, skips, water and ore buckets.

Note.—Where no reference is given to an application, the question has been decided by the Umpire, without notice, as a matter not admitting of reasonable doubt, in accordance with paragraph (2) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations.

Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

MAY, 1916.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.†
Lydbrook (Gloucester)	J. B. Barclay, Lydbrook House, Lydbrook.	Surgery, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Billingborough (Lincoln)	E. H. Cragg, Station Road, Billingborough, Folkingham.	Surgery, weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
East Grinstead (Sussex)	W. H. Hillyer, Heathcote, East Grinstead.	Thursday, 9-10 a.m.
Acle (Norfolk)	N. S. Carruthers, Oakley House, Acle.	(1) Residence, weekdays, 9-10 a.m. (2) Surgery at Reedham, weekdays, 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Honiton (Devon)	R. Hedden, Plympton House, Honiton.	Tuesday, 2.30-3.30 p.m.
Leathills and Wamlockhead (Dumfriesshire and Lanark)	T. D. Newbigging, Maplebank, Leathills.	Tuesday, 2.30-3.30 p.m.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4, and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H. M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 23, North Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsbury, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Agricultural Statistics, 1915. Part I. Acreage and Live Stock Returns of England and Wales. With summaries for the United Kingdom. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 8240: price 4d.]

Spontaneous Combustion in Coal Mines. First Report of Departmental Committee. Minutes of Evidence, first to tenth

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1915, page 849.

† Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

days, 1913. Home Office. [Stationery Office publication: price 2s. 6d.]

Report of Committee to conduct experiments to test the value of Dry Powder Fire Extinguishers, as compared with Water and other "First Aid" Appliances for extinguishing or effectively controlling Fires such as are likely to be caused by Bombs. Home Office. [Cd. 8250: price 1d.]

Regulations made by the Military Service (Civil Liabilities) Committee. [Cd. 8249: price 1½d.]

Second Report of the Committee appointed to examine the issues arising out of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Post Office Servants, 1912-1913. [Cd. 8244: price 1d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1915. Part A. General Report. [H.C. 30: price 1s. 5d.]

National Health Insurance. Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Approved Society Finance and Administration. [Cd. 8251: price 4d.]

Emigration Statistics of Ireland, 1915. [Cd. 8230: price 2½d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS.

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette*, April, 1916. Industrial and labour conditions during March, proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, Canadian legislation concerning industrial disputes, prices, accidents, immigration, &c. *Census and Statistics Monthly*, March, 1916. World's statistics of farm live stock, prices of agricultural produce, 1916, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics*, January and February, 1916. Prices and cost of living, trade unions, disputes, changes in rates of wages, unemployment, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette*, February, 1916. Dislocations in industries, 1915, industrial arbitration proceedings, labour exchanges, employment and unemployment, &c. *The Industrial Arbitration Reports*, 1915. Vol. XIV., part 5. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—*Wages Board Determinations*, 1916, showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Tentmakers*, 13th March (24th September, 1915). *Clothing*, 29th February (16th October, 1914). *Cycle Trade*, 16th March (23rd August, 1915). *Pottery*, 16th March (13th October, 1915). *Cigar Trade*, 23rd February (10th March, 1914). *Fellmongers*, 1st March (6th July, 1914). *Coal and Coke*, 24th March (13th December, 1915). *Jam Trade*, 10th March (19th November, 1915). *Rubber Trade*, 21st March (13th May, 1913).

QUEENSLAND.—*The Industrial Gazette*, April, 1916. Industrial arbitration awards, transactions of labour exchanges, prices fixed by the Control of Trade Act, &c. [Brisbane: A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]

—*Industrial Peace Act Awards*, 1916, showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Coal Working and Lightening Industry*, Brisbane, submission, 2nd-10th February. *Shop Assistants, South-Eastern Division*, 21st February (17th October, 1913). *Carpentry and Joinery Trade, Central Division*, 4th February (10th September, 1912). *Brisbane Tinsmiths and Sheet Metal Workers*, 3rd March (6th August, 1914). *Brisbane Wool, Hide, Skin and Produce Stores Labourers*, 10th March (27th August, 1915). *Electrical Engineering*, 27th March (19th May, 1914). *Brisbane Salesmen in Wholesale Warehouses*, 8th March. *Shipping Clerks, South-Eastern Division*, 6th March (24th April, 1914). *Fellmongers, South-Eastern Division*, 21st March (23rd March, 1914).

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour*, March, 1916. Condition of trade and employment in February, prices, accidents, co-operative works, &c. *Awards, Agreements, and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act*. Vol. XVI. Part 8. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*Bulletin of the International Labour Office* (English edition), 1915, Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8. [London: Pioneer Press, Woolwich.]

Bulletin de l'Office International du Travail (French edition), 1914, No. 5. [Paris: Berger-Levrault.]

International Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics, May, 1916. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome, 1916.]

UNITED STATES.—*Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics*, April, 1916. Strikes and lock-outs in 1915, retail prices of food, employment, immigration, collective bargaining, &c. May, 1916. Retail prices of food in the United States, strikes and lock-outs, September, 1915, to March, 1916, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Bulletins of the United States Department of Labour Statistics*. No. 191, March, 1916. Collective bargaining in the anthracite coal industry. No. 188, March, 1916. Report of British Departmental Committee on Danger in the use of Lead in the Painting of Buildings. No. 187, March, 1916. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Men's Clothing Industry, 1911 to 1914. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration*. Year ended 30th June, 1915. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Cotton Production and Distribution. Season of 1914-15. Bulletin 131*. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Interstate Commerce Commission*, 1915. Part I. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Twenty-seventh Annual Report on the Statistics of Railways in the United States*. Year ended 30th June, 1914. Division of Statistics. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*New York. The Bulletin*, April, 1916. The labour market, mediation in strikes, &c. State Industrial Commission. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

—*The Labour Market in March*, 1916. The Industrial Commission, State Department of Labour.

—*Massachusetts. Minimum Wage Commission. Bulletin No. 8. September*, 1915. Wages of women in the paper box factories in Massachusetts. No. 10, *January*, 1916. Wages of women in hosiery and knit goods factories in Massachusetts. No. 11, *January*, 1916. Report of the Minimum Wage Commission, 1915. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Nebraska. Report upon the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Law for year ending 30th November*, 1915. State Department of Labour. [Nebraska: Claffin Printing Co.]

—*Ohio. Bulletin of the Industrial Commission. Vol. III. No. 1. March*, 1916. Industrial accidents in Ohio, January, 1914, to June, 1915. [Columbus: F. J. Heer Printing Co.]

—*Pennsylvania. Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Labour and Industry, March*, 1916. Occupations of women in Pennsylvania, accidents, inspection, conference on industrial diseases, &c. [Harrisburg: W. Stanley Ray, Printer.]

FRANCE.—*Bulletin du Ministère du Travail et de la Prévoyance Sociale*, 1916, *January-February*. Employment in industrial and commercial establishments in January, labour disputes in January and February, employment in mines in December and January, economic indices for the fourth quarter of 1915, retail prices in principal towns. Ministry of Labour. [Paris: Berger-Levrault: price 2d.]

GERMANY.—*Reichs-Arbeitsblatt*, April, 1916. Employment in March, provision for relief of unemployed textile and clothing workers. Department of Labour Statistics, Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro (monthly series), January-February*, 1916. Labour disputes in fourth quarter, retail prices at co-operative stores in November and December. *Do. (fortnightly series), May 1st and May 16th*. Labour disputes in April, retail food prices in March, Royal Decrees (a) making provision in favour of employees of small businesses who have been called to the colours, and (b) authorising the fixing of maximum prices. Department of Labour of Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d. each part.]

—*Annali del Credito e della Previdenza. Provvedimenti in materia di economia e di finanza emanati in Italia in seguito alla guerra Europea. Parte seconda: dal 10 Agosto, 1915, al 31 Dicembre*, 1915. Department of Credit and Thrift of Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 2s. 5d.]

—*Bollettino della Emigrazione*, 15th March to 15th April, 1916. Department of Emigration. [Rome.]

HOLLAND.—*Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, April, 1916. Employment, labour exchanges and labour disputes in March, wholesale and retail prices. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales*, April, 1916. Cost of living, disputes in first quarter of 1916. Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez: price 2½d.]

—*Meseu Social: Memoria del treballs fet durant l'any 1915*. Social Institute. [Barcelona, 1916.]

—*Memoria sobre'l funcionment de la Borsa del Treball de Barcelona durant l'any 1915*. Social Institute. [Barcelona.]

NORWAY.—(1) *Fabrikællingen i Norge*, 1909. *IV-Hefte, Produktionsstatistik*. (2) *Statistisk Aarbok for Kongeriket Norge*, 1915. (3) *Norges Sparebanker*, 1914. (4) *Folkmængdens Bevoegelse*, 1901-10, 1912, 1913. (5) *Norges Bergverksdrift*, 1914. [H. Aschehoug & Co., Christiania.]

—*Prisbevægelsen paa livsfornødenheter i Kristiania (Specialundersøkelser V.)*. Municipal Statistical Office, 1916. [Christiania.]

SWEDEN.—*Sociala Meddelanden*. Employment during March, co-operative societies in Sweden, 1912-1915, retail prices of food in first quarter of 1916. Department of Social Affairs. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

DENMARK.—*Statistiske Meddelelser. IV. Række. 48 Bind*. Unemployment 1910-1914, special enumerations of the unemployed from August, 1914, to May, 1915, prices of cereals in 1915. *Statistiske Efterretninger, 1st May*, 1916. Unemployment in 1915. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

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